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Colorado GEAR UP celebrates National GEAR UP Week Sept. 22-66, 2014

Sept. 8, 2014 - Colorado GEAR UP announces its participation in National GEAR UP Week 2014. This week commemorates the continuing success of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), a college access program providing students and families the support and resources they need for college success. Since its inception in 1999, GEAR UP has improved educational outcomes for millions of low-income, minority and disadvantaged students across the United States.

In Colorado, the average GEAR UP student graduated high school having completed five college classes in the first phase of the grant from 2005 to 2011. Colorado GEAR UP students also earned college credit from the College Board College Level Examination Program test. Some 88 percent of students earned some level of credits, with more than 50 percent of test-takers earned up to 12 college credits. Additionally, in the current GEAR UP III grant (2011-2018), the program has seen tremendous success with Early Remediation. This program has the potential to reduce our students' remedial needs to zero while allowing them to build their college credits before graduating high school.

Colorado GEAR UP has programs in Denver, Aurora, Greeley, Fort Morgan, La Jara, Colorado Springs, Commerce City, Lakewood/Edgewater, Pueblo, Lamar, Alamosa, La Junta, and Alamosa.

"GEAR UP means a chance for me to succeed in life and be the first person in my family to go to college and earn a degree," says Vicente Pablo, a GEAR UP scholar.

For more information about Colorado GEAR UP, please contact Meghan Cave, 303.866.2973, Meghan.cave@dhe.state.co.us. To learn more about the national GEAR UP program, please contact the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships at 202-530-1135 or www.edpartnerships.org.

About *Colorado GEAR UP is a federally-funded grant program placing full-time advisors in more than two dozen schools across the state. Advisors start with middle-school students,*

teaching them college basics and taking them for campus visits. In high school, students take college courses and build confidence in the future. Most of these students are the first in their families to go to college – Colorado GEAR UP strives to ensure they're prepared to turn their dreams into reality.